

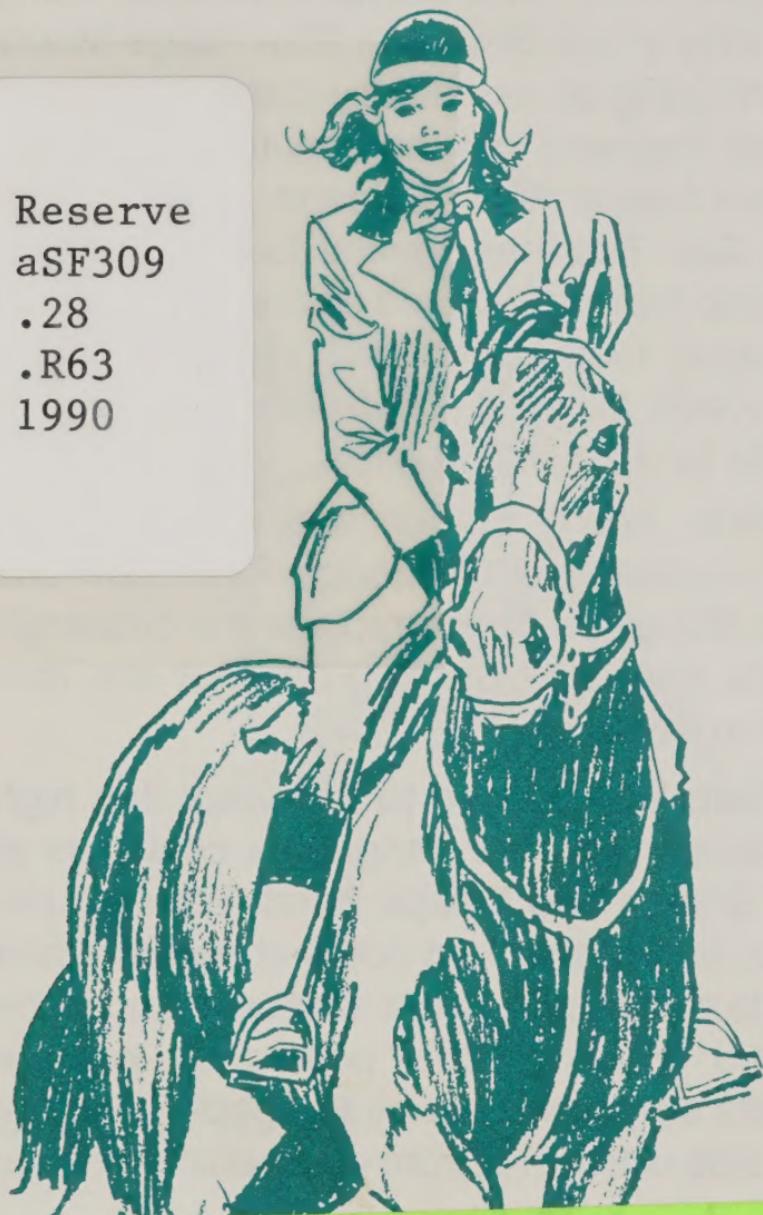
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# ROCKY GAP/ WILLIS KNOB HORSE TRAILS

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United States  
Department of  
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Southern Region

# ROCKY GAP & WILLIS KNOB HORSE TRAILS

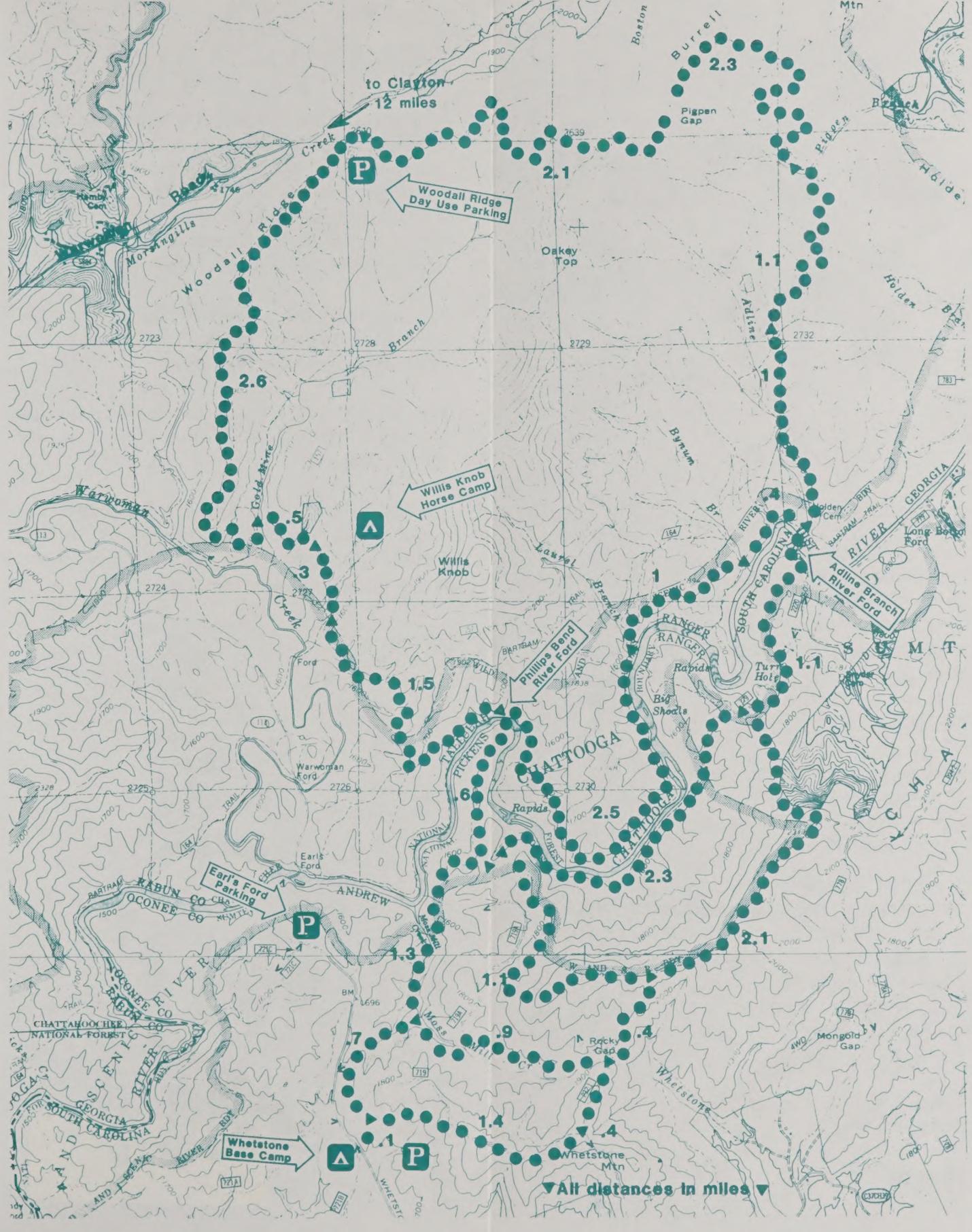
The Rocky Gap Trail in South Carolina and the Willis Knob Trail in Georgia combine to offer 27.5 miles of the most scenic horseback riding and hiking in the Southern Blue Ridge Mountains. Winding across deeply dissected ridges, the trails descend into the beautiful Chattooga Wild and Scenic River drainage. The 12.5 mile Rocky Gap Trail has several loops, while the Willis Gap Trail is designed as one large 15 mile continuous loop. Each trail crosses several gravel roads, allowing you to plan trips from one half mile to the full 27.5 miles.

Two fords, Adline Branch and Phillips Bend, permit crossing the Chattooga River from one state to the other. These replace the crossings at Earl's Ford and Sandy Ford that are now closed to horse use.

**Important:** Riders need to be aware that high water levels make for dangerous crossings at Adline Branch and Phillips Bend. Both are negotiable for experienced riders at normal water levels, but Adline Branch is shallower and is the preferred crossing. Stay posted on weather forecasts so you will not be trapped on the opposite side of the river from your vehicle if heavy rains should occur.

## FACILITIES

**Georgia:** Groups wishing to camp in Georgia can stay at the Willis Knob Horse Camp located off Goldmine Road. This camp provides two loops--the forward loop offers one double unit site and three single unit sites; and the back loop has one double unit site and one single unit site. Either or both loops may be reserved. There are toilet facilities (handicapped accessible), group campfire areas, twenty stalls, and a



springfed watering trough. Each campsite has a cooking grill, picnic table, and lantern post.

**South Carolina:** Many riders begin their trip at Whetstone Road Base Camp, located just south of Whetstone Road. This area offers five sites available on a first come basis and 14 sites available for group reservation. The camp has drinking water, cooking grills, hitching rails, toilet facilities (handicapped accessible), tables, and lantern posts. A day use parking area is located across the road from the camp.



## DIRECTIONS

**Georgia:** From Clayton, go east on Warwoman Road for 11.6 miles. Turn right on Goldmine Road (gravel road) and look for signs indicating Woodall Ridge Day Use Parking Area on the left.

**South Carolina:** From Walhalla, go north on S.C. 28 for 7 miles. Turn left on Whetstone Road. Go through the 4-way stop. At pavement end, continue on gravel road approximately 3/4 mile until you reach sign of Whetstone Base Camp on the left. Day use parking lot is on the right.



# REGULATIONS

- Horses must be kept in designated areas.
- Trail bikes, mountain bikes, and off-road vehicles are prohibited on trails.
- Campers should limit their stay in the campgrounds to 14 days.
- One camper unit, or two tents, are permitted per camping unit. Up to two vehicles are permitted at each site. Others must be kept in the parking area.
- A maximum of five people per camping unit is allowed.
- All pets must be on a leash in camp-ground.
- Build fires only in designated fire rings. Use downed wood.
- Riding is restricted to Rocky Gap Trail within 1/4 mile of the Chattooga River in South Carolina. Earl's Ford and other fords downstream are closed to horse use.
- Riding on the Bartram and Chattooga River Trails is prohibited.
- Camping along the horse trail is permitted but is subject to general forest regulations which may differ from South Carolina to Georgia. Check with the local forest officer.
- Camping is not permitted in Woodall Ridge day use parking area.





## RESERVATIONS

Groups can make reservations, either by phone or letter. The Whetstone Base Camp has 14 sites that may be reserved. All sites will be available on a first come basis if no reservations have been made. Reservations must be made at least 48 hours in advance. To reserve facilities in South Carolina contact:

Andrew Pickens Ranger District  
112 Andrews Pickens  
Mountaib Rest, SC 29664  
(803) 638-9568

The Willis Knob Group Horse Camp is available by reservation only. The entire camp which includes eight sites can be reserved or one of the two loops containing three and five sites can be reserved. Reservations must be made and applicable fees received at least 14 days in advance. For reservations of facilities in Georgia contact:

Tallulah Ranger District  
PO Box 438  
Clayton, GA 30525  
(404) 782-3320

## FEES & PERMITS

In South Carolina, a fee per night per site is required at all sites in the campgrounds. In Georgia, a non-refundable reservation fee and a one night user's fee is required and payable in advance. User fees included in the advance fees are refundable if cancelled at least 14 days before the first date of reservation.

If reservations are made by telephone or mail, applicable fees must be received 14 days prior to the first date of occupancy.

An additional \$30 fee is required by groups wishing to reserve all or part of the area for group camping.

Organized or advertised rides will require a special use permit and route approval by the District Ranger. Special use fees vary by event and are in addition to other fees.



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